

# Videmus Omnia



## 55<sup>th</sup> STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2008

### REUNION REPORT 14-18 MAY 2008

The **Association's** 26th gathering, dubbed "*The National Treasures Reunion*", was convened at the Hilton Crystal City in Arlington, VA, during a week chock full of activities, camaraderie, and enjoying the sights and aura of our nation's capital.

About 230 members, family and friends of the **Association** enjoyed the atmosphere, tours, hospitality room, dinner cruise and grand banquet during another memorable occasion.

**Vice President** and **Reunion Chair Ricky McMahon** and his merry band of committee volunteers did yeoman work for months to bring it off. They did a fantastic job in a challenging set of circumstances. Wife **Cary** and daughter **Caitlin Keyser, Bo** and **Ann Marlin, Ed** and **Monica Topps** were major players in the planning and execution of the entire event.



*The Marlins and McMahon set up the registration/welcome center.*

Others who aided in the cause were: **Jenny Hampton, Mike Cook, Marcy Atwood, Laura Dugie, Bill McKechnie, Rick Rankin, Don Olds, Jim Thomas, and Ken Cobleigh.** Two dedicated docents at the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, **Bill Stranberg** and **Buzz Carpenter**, provided a wealth of information on the myriad exhibits there. **Joel Lukenhouse, Joe Siniscalchi** and **Jeff Turner** were other contributors. **Kudos to all hands!**

The nation's capital offered more museums and monuments than there was time to visit. But getting to the Air Force and World War II Memorials was worth the trip. Walking tours of the Capital Mall, the Pentagon, and Arlington National Cemetery were among the numerous attractions.



*Some of the tour group on the Newseum observation balcony with a Capital view.*

*L to R: Laura Dugie, Betty McCall, Carol Moore, Susan Mitchell, Roland Saenz, Bert and Rosalina Alvarez.*

The Potomac River dinner cruise was excellent with the lit-up evening vista of DC, and meals worthy of a four-star restaurant.

The Friday night banquet couldn't have been any better. It was supported superbly by US

Military District of DC **Air Force** Color Guard and Brass Quintet.

The Saturday membership meeting went smoothly and was highlighted by the re-election of the **Association** Board of Directors, and a presentation of the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing's** missions by the Ops Group Commander, **Colonel Phil Smith**.

*(See the meeting minutes later in this issue, as well as a complete list of attendees.)*

This reunion welcomed several sons, daughters and grandchildren of **Association** members to the various events.

One observation about this conclave was the readily apparent generational layers among the troops. It has always been there, but with the passing of time, it seemed more pronounced now as the various eras of the **55<sup>th</sup>** are now spread over a span of nearly sixty years, yet all were well represented.

From the WWII veterans, who became the first **55<sup>th</sup>** Cold Warriors in RB-50s; to the RB-47 Forbes-era clan; then the RB to RC transitional years; and the RC-135 bred crewdogs from the 1970s to the present, who have entered the retired ranks, plus a cadre of those still on active duty, this was a kaleidoscope of history and camaraderie .

Although the turnout was lower than in recent years for a variety of reasons, all in all, *the people*, as much as anything, made for what truly was one more memorable assemblage, and so aptly labeled: *"The National Treasures Reunion."*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



*Our peerless leader.*

Greetings from the Heartland:

Things have finally calmed down a bit after the busiest of times with a majority of our **Association** activities coming together inside of two months: *Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>*, the Birthday Ball, and our *National Treasures Reunion*. These activities are covered in greater detail elsewhere in this issue, but let me touch lightly on the reunion.

It was another class act by the **55<sup>th</sup>**. Not the biggest of reunions, but a great time was had by those who could make it. It was a few days, especially banquet night, for all generations of the **55<sup>th</sup>** to be together. Another grand **55<sup>th</sup>** reunion is in the history books. We are already on the road to having our next one at Reno, NV, around September 2009. We will endeavor to make it another grand one.

A milestone - **an increase in dues** - was passed by the Board and briefed at the membership meeting. This measure became necessary after about fifteen years with no increases. Depletion of reserves, inflation, etc., the usual suspects, made this action necessary.

Activities by the **Association** to fulfill our purposes have remained basically the same for the past five years with modest increases in event/item costs. We are looking hard to economize our greatest area of expenses: printing and publishing our newsletter and the membership directory.

The **Association's** membership total numbers remain high; however, the numbers of those remaining to pay dues, and past payment time, are also large. **Mike Cook**, our new treasurer, has presented herein more data elaborating on this topic, redesigned a payment form to help remind us, and to facilitate payments.

The new dues structure does **not** become effective until 2009. That is the only fair way to change over. The increase is very fair when compared to many other organizations that we all belong to. If you are due in 2008, as I am, you could choose to start early...and just send in \$20 now. That is what I'm doing.... 'cause it's a good cause.

My best to all for a safe and fun filled summer. Y'all be careful out there, now.

*Videmus Omnia, Jim*

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# ASSOCIATION BUSINESS & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

## Business/Policy/Reunion Suggestions:

### President Jim Thomas

4418 Anchor Mill  
Bellevue, NE 68123-1168  
E-mail: JThomas927@aol.com

### Vice President Ricky McMahon

14325 Orlando Road  
Nokesville, VA 20181  
E-mail: Rick\_CaryMc@comcast.net

## Membership/Dues/Changes of Address:

### Treasurer Michael Cook

3204 Rahn Blvd  
Bellevue, NE 68123  
E-mail: Michael.Cook@cox.net

## Newsletter Editor:

### Secretary Max Moore

201 Basswood Court  
Bellevue, NE 68005-2001  
E-mail: MaxMoore55@aol.com

## Association Historian:

### Robb Hoover

13412 Tregaron Circle  
Bellevue, NE 68123  
E-mail: RobbHoover@aol.com

## Association Web Page Comments/Ideas:

### Jim Maloney

7908 Kona Circle  
Papillion, NE 68046-5619  
E-mail: jim@maloney.com  
or webguy@

## Other Members of the Board of Directors:

**Permanent Members:** Sam Pizzo, Sparky Adams, Charlie Waters, Bill Ernst, and Errol Hoberman (*Hoover, Maloney, Moore*). **Elected Members:** (*Thomas, McMahon, Cook*) **Don Griffin, Joe Gyulavics, Fox Censullo, George Ross, Kevin Todd, Dennis Haun, Pete Glenboski, Larry Utley. Active Duty:** LtCol Bill Jensen, commander, 343RS and LtCol Mike Kelly, commander, 38RS.

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*Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you.*

*Winston Churchill*

# 55<sup>TH</sup> SRW ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES SATURDAY 17 MAY 2008

CRYSTAL CITY HILTON, VA (WASHINGTON, DC)

President Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 0904. He noted that a quorum was present.

He called for Secretary Max Moore to read the minutes from the membership meeting at the Omaha reunion in September 2006. **Bill Simon** moved to dispense with that reading. Motion was seconded by many and passed. Moore noted for the record that the minutes had been published in the November 2006 *Videmus Omnia* newsletter and were available on the **Association** web site.

Bill Ernst moved the minutes be approved as published. Seconded. Motion passed.

The president recognized outgoing-Treasurer Errol Hoberman who gave the financial report. The checking account had \$5544.35 with no CDs and no saving accounts. Mike Cook moved the report be accepted. Seconded. Motion passed.

The president gave a Power Point overview of what the Association does and accomplishes on a regular basis: reunions, newsletters, Hall of Fame selection, *Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>* event, **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Birthday Ball support, Award for Excellence, Offutt Cemetery flag pole project, sales, donations, and other worthy causes.

He noted that over the course of the past ten years, the financial costs for an increased number of projects, plus inflation, has resulted in expenses exceeding incoming funds and thus, a dwindling treasury balance.

**He announced that the Board of Directors had authorized a dues increase for the first time in over 15 years. They will rise to \$20 per year and \$55 for three years beginning in January 2009.**

President Thomas then introduced **Colonel Phil Smith**, the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Operations Group Commander. He gave an extensive and informative briefing on the current active duty wing's





organization and worldwide operations. He also answered members' questions.

Colonel Smith expressed his appreciation for being invited to the reunion, and then delivered his sincere recognition for the service and continued support the **Association** provides the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** at Offutt. He professed how it was privilege to serve in the Wing these past two years and that he would be handing over the Ops Group to **Colonel Jeff Herd** on 5 June. Pres Thomas thanked the colonel for his time and presentation.

Thomas called upon Moore to give the nomination committee report. Moore noted that there were three categories of members on the Board of Directors: permanent members who had opted for that status after being elected four or more times; elected members of which the limits are no less than seven, but no more than eleven; and the two active duty representatives. The current Board has a total of 21 members.

He listed the eleven current BoD all nominated for re-election as: Thomas, Ricky McMahon, Don Griffin, Michael Cook, Joe Gyulavics, Dennis Haun, George Ross, Fox Censullo, Kevin Todd, Pete Glenboski, and Larry Utley. LtCol Mike Kelly and LtCol Bill Jensen would remain on the BoD as active duty representatives.

The floor was opened for nominations. There being none, **Bill Lewis** the Younger moved the nominations be closed. Seconded and passed.

Ernst moved that the slate of nominees for the Board be elected by acclamation. Seconded and passed.

Thomas noted that the next reunion would be slated for the fall of 2009 and opened the floor for discussion on where to hold same. San Antonio, Dallas and Reno were suggested. There were no volunteer chairs for San Antonio or Dallas, and **Don Gurney** had said he would lead one in Reno. Thomas called for a show of hands for each location and Reno was favored.

Reunion Chairman McMahon (*back to camera*) reported that the reunion attendance for the banquet was 230 and total registration was about 240. He also gave an overall assessment of the reunion saying he was extremely pleased with the working relationship with the Hilton staff at all levels. Based upon conversations with the hotel sales manager, Ricky was confident the contracted rooms

obligation was fulfilled. He discussed the transportation problems and how that was handled. He was relatively confident the reunion had paid for



itself pending the final issues, billings and reports.

President Thomas recognized the superior efforts of McMahon and his team for the tremendous slate of events, the organization and overall success of the gathering. The membership acknowledged same with a standing ovation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1045.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Max R. Moore, Secretary*

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of April 2008, the **Association** had **932** members in good standing, of which about 160 are widows. That is a decrease of 148 since 7 January 2008, but new memberships and renewals are coming in regularly. Another 38 **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** units, plus other associated organizations, receive the newsletter for public relations purposes.

The **Association** still claims members in all **50 states**, plus Guam, Puerto Rico, and APOs in Europe and the Pacific.

The number of **active duty members** continues to increase, largely due to the **Association's** exposure to the **Wing** at events such as the *Tales* and Birthday Ball; in addition to the solid support of the **Wing** senior staff at Offutt, and as current members continue to recruit in other areas of the country.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

The **Association**, as of 17 May 2008, had a checking account balance \$5544.35.

**Please pay your dues promptly, early and frequently.** ☺



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*Occasionally, members include modest amounts of money over and above that required for dues to add to the treasury, and every dollar is much appreciated. (Hint, hint, heavy hint.)*

*Now more than ever, we need the funds.*

\* \* \* \* \*

The most asked question of the membership chairman is, "What is the expiration date of my dues?" **It is indicated on your address label, or in the e-version introduction.**

**2007 on your address label means your dues expired on 31 December 2007.** Any other year indicates when your dues will expire, or have already expired. If you are delinquent, please renew **soonest.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Anyone whose membership expired in 2006 was taken off the member-in-good-standing roll. To be reinstated, please remit \$30 to become current through 31 December 2008. There are 63 persons whose dues lapsed on 31 December 2006.

For those whose membership expired in 2007, you will be taken off the member-in-good standing roll on 31 December this year, unless you renew now. There are 156 members out there whose dues expired then. \$20 will get you current through the end of 2008.

If your dues expire at then end of 2008, please remit \$10 as soon as practical so as not to fall behind. There are 115 members in that category.

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Effective 1 January 2009, membership dues will be \$20 per year or \$55 for three years. **All advance years expiration dates**

will be honored. The new dues rates will commence upon a membership expiration date. The calendar year is the dues year.

So it is to your advantage to pay your dues before the end of this year!!!

Dues are payable anytime during an expiration year, so, please renew now.

**Show us the money!!!!**

Dues become delinquent on 31 March of the year following the expiration year. After 1 April of that year, delinquent members will be notified that their membership has expired and they will no longer receive the **Association** newsletter. (*Big threat there.*)

This provides a 15 month window to pay your dues. Of course, we prefer sooner rather than later.

**Once delinquent, a member must pay all back dues to be reinstated.**

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**Please remit dues to **55SRW Association** as soon as practical.**

***Do you sense a recurring theme here?***

Mail to **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association**,

ATTN: Michael J. Cook,

PO Box 13165, Offutt AFB, NE 68113.

For whatever reason, if you do not know your expiration date, to inquire same, please e-mail to Michael.Cook@cox.net; or drop him a note at the above address to get an update on your dues status.

For those who receive this newsletter via regular post, an **Association** pre-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

New members receive the **Association's** dual-shield lapel pin and the **55<sup>th</sup>SRW** Cold War Memorial coin from 2003 when they join.

Members desiring replacement or additional pins can get them from Cook for \$5.00 prepaid (*if you want more than one pin, the cost is just \$3.00 for each additional pin if mailed at the same time; i.e. one pin, \$5; two pins, \$8; three pins \$11; etc.*).

Thomas and Moore have pins and coins, as well, so members in the Omaha area can get the pins from them for \$3.00 without the postage. Extra memorial coins are \$5.00 each.

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If you don't receive e-mails from the **Association**, it likely is because your e-address is **not listed or outdated**. To get on the *members only* e-mail roster, or correct/update any changes in recent months, send your current e-mail address to Cook. See contact info above.

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## E – NEWSLETTER

**Association** members in good standing who so desire can receive the newsletter via electronic transmission. **To get on the *members only* e-mail roster, send current e-mail to Cook.** Or go to: **www.55srwa.org** for full instructions on how to read and/or download the e-newsletter.

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## TALES OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH 2008

This year's edition (*the eighth*) of the **Tales** was held on **Friday, 4 April**, in the Offutt Airmen's Leadership School CMSAF **James M. McCoy** Building.

President Thomas, chairman and emcee of the event, opened the festivities before a standing room crowd of over 200. He introduced Cold War veterans **Robb Hoover** and **Harry Tull**, who joined **BGen Jim Jones**, the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Commander, to ring the **55<sup>th</sup>** ceremonial bell to begin the program.

After BGen Jones' welcoming remarks, **Reg Urschler** was the first speaker as a surrogate representing the WWII era by relating an episode from the **55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group's** adventures.

**King Hawes** followed with his personal, detailed story on the loss of RC-135 Rivet Amber from Shemya AFB, AK, in 1969.

Thomas then recounted how the **55<sup>th</sup> Association** commissioned and dedicated the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** Cold War Monument at the Memorial Gardens of the USAF Museum near Dayton, OH, in September 2003.

Next up, **Tony Belford**, a former 38<sup>th</sup> RS aircraft commander, gave his account of his RC crew's determined effort to abet the rescue of a downed F-16 pilot in Serbia during Operation Allied Force. **Colonel Jim Harvey**, commander of

the 25<sup>th</sup> Intel Sqd, a **55<sup>th</sup>** unit at Hurlburt AFB, FL, told of the experience of one of his unit's members in a downed MH-53 helicopter in Afghanistan.

The **Tales** was again sponsored by the **Association**, the Strategic Roost of the Association of Old Crows, and the LeMay Chapter of the Order of Daedalians. The 55<sup>th</sup> Ops Group contributed to the refreshments, as well.

(A two page photo montage of the event can be found later in this issue)

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## 55<sup>TH</sup> WING 2008 BIRTHDAY BALL



Pres Jim Thomas presents a check for \$1000 to 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Vice Cmdr Col Robert Maness. Looking on is 2Lt Leonardo Cruz, 2008 Ball chairman.

The 30th annual **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** gala was held Saturday, **5 April 2008** at the Qwest Center Omaha. The event was hosted by BGen James Jones, the wing commander, and his wife **Heidi**.

The theme was "*Honoring the Heritage, Dominating the Day, Forging the Future*".



The planning committee, led by **Lt Leo Cruz** of the 55<sup>th</sup> Contracting Sqd, did a superb job in



organizing and executing the details for the Wing's largest formal social event of the year.

The featured speaker was legendary Nebraska football coach **Dr. Tom Osborne**, current Athletic Director at UNL. The program included the presentation of the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association** Award for Excellence, and the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Hall of Fame inductees recognition.

The Ball, which was established by our own **Regis Urschler** when he was the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** commander, was first held in January 1979. He was recognized as an "honored guest" at this year's function. ("*The year of the Reggie*")



*The first Birthday Ball cake cutting, January 1979.*

*L to R: Past wing commanders Col Joe Church, then-MajGen George Miller; retired CINCSAC General Russell Dougherty, guest speaker; and wing commander Col Regis Urschler.*



*Cake cutting ceremony April 2008.*

*Current wing commander, BGen Jim Jones, AmnBasic Colleen Welch, Don Gifford, 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Gp, BGen(Ret) Urschler (same position in photo, hair different color)*

**Dave Webber**, sports personality for WOWT in Omaha was again the emcee. An AF veteran, he was once assigned to the SAC Elite Guard.

In addition to Reggie, other former wing commanders in attendance were **MGen (Ret) Greg Power**, **BGen (Ret) Larry Mitchell** and his wife, **Susan**; **Col (Ret) Steve Stevens** and wife, **Suzanne**; **Col (Ret) Bill Manire** and wife, **B.J.**; **Col (Ret) Dan Peterson** and wife, **Katie**.

Among the record crowd of 828 attending were over 130 **Association** members and guests. Included were the usual suspects from the local area, plus several out of towners including: **Bob and Carole Barsaloux**, **Jim and Roberta Riley**, **Pete and Treva Potter**, **Colonel Kim** and **Joe Siniscalchi**, 'Loose' and **Cynthia Lane**, **Fox Censullo**, **Al and Sandy Feldkamp**, **Hank and Sandra Dubuy**, **Jim and Marion Taylor**, **Paul and Susan Yeoman**, **Mace MacElhaney** and **Gladys Joyet**, **Tim and Deb Spaeth**, **John and Ann Trumble**; **Larry and Arlene Cobb**; **Colonel Bill McKechnie**, and **Mike McFarland**.

The "Greatest Generation" WWII veterans attending included: **Harold Hall**, **Don Gifford** and **Neil Webster**.

The **Association** is represented on the Ball committee by Ernst and Moore, and makes an annual donation of \$1000 to help defray the ticket price for lower ranking enlisted personnel.

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*Calendar notation: The 2009 Birthday Ball will be held, Saturday, 28 March at the Qwest Center Omaha. Major John Francolini of the 55<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group has been on the job as committee chair since right after the last Ball on 5 April. He really hit the ground at full speed.*

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## **55<sup>th</sup> WING HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS 2008**

**LtCol (Retired) Jeffery Needham** and **CMSgt (Retired) Lawrence A. Cobb** were the 2008 inductees into the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** Hall of Fame. Ceremonies were held at Wing HQ on Friday, 4 April, and presentations were made at the annual **55th Wing** Birthday Ball the next evening.

The **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association** administers the selection process.

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**LtCol Needham** served in the **55<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** and **55<sup>th</sup> Wing** for over sixteen years. Professional airmanship, outstanding achievements, and superior leadership were his hallmarks from copilot to squadron commander.



*BGen Jones, 55<sup>th</sup> CC, and Jeff Needham*

While deployed to Athens, Greece, in 1987, he was injured when a terrorist bomb exploded next to the crew bus. Lt Needham was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received. As a crew commander, Capt Needham led his crew to win the Best -135 Crew Trophy in the 1989 Strategic Air Command, Bombing and Navigating Competition.

After a recon staff tour in Greece, in 1993 he returned to the **55<sup>th</sup>** to serve as Chief RC-135 Stan/Eval Pilot, and then Chief, Wing Recon Ops Division. After a tour at the Pentagon, he returned for his third tour in the Wing. As Operations Officer of the 38<sup>th</sup> Recon Sq, he led from the front commanding a crew on numerous deployments. Then as Operations Officer of the 338<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron, Lt Col Needham was in on the lead in standing up a formal training unit.

In 2003 he took command of the 343rd Recon Squadron, and led his squadron to many honors, awards and firsts. As commander of the 763<sup>rd</sup> Expeditionary Recon Squadron, he flew numerous missions during IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM.

LtCol Needham's devotion to duty and extraordinary leadership during his many years of service to the **55<sup>th</sup>** are exemplary, and he is most deserving of induction.

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**Chief Cobb** began his career with the **55<sup>th</sup>** in 1962 at Forbes AFB, KS, assigned to the 55<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Sqd. In August 1966, he was

part of the advance team that established the **55<sup>th</sup>**'s presence at Offutt AFB, NE, preparing for the Wing's move from Forbes.



*Chief Cobb receives his plaque from BGen Jones*

He later transferred to the Inflight Maintenance Technician shop and began a flying career in the RC-135C aircraft. From 1967 to 1971, he flew numerous operational missions, and his airmanship and dedication were rewarded with the Distinguished Flying Cross and nine Air Medals.

Assigned to the depot at Greenville, TX, Chief Cobb organized the team to equip, modernize, and standardize the RC-135 aircraft to the new Rivet Joint configuration.

Upon his retirement from active service in 1983, Chief Cobb became a Project Engineer for the RC-135 depot maintenance and flight test unit at Greenville. He was responsible for delivering a ready weapon system, improving that system, and maintaining its war fighting capability.

For over forty years his outstanding management and superior support has had a major impact in developing and maintaining the Wing's mission capabilities, and he continues to contribute to the present. He is another worthy inductee.

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## **THE 55<sup>TH</sup> SRW ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

The **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association Award for Excellence** is presented annually at the **55<sup>th</sup> Wing Birthday Ball** to that individual who best exemplifies the basic tenants of the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association**.



The 2007 award went to **SMSgt James H. Leichtenberg**, of the 55<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMS). He added to his already impressive list of awards as the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing LtGen Leo Marquez Award winner; the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Senior NCO of the Year; and nominee for the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Senior NCO of the Year.

This is the second year in a row that the Award for Excellence winner has come from the AMS.



*Association Board member Michael Cook presents SMSgt Leichtenberg with his plaque. Pres Jim Thomas applauds in the background.*

Previous award recipients are: **LtCol Ricky McMahan**, 338<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron commander, for 2000; and **MSgt Steven and MSgt Lisa Haggett**, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Command Section, 2001; **LtCol Kurt Kramer**, 38<sup>th</sup> RS commander, 2002, and **LtCol Glen Gulleckson**, 343<sup>rd</sup> RS commander, 2003; **TSgt Terry Hunt**, Medical Support Group, 2004; **MSgt Norman de la Vega**, 55<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Sqd, Elite Guard, in 2005. The 2006 awardee was **MSgt David A. Cain** of the 55<sup>th</sup> AMS, a crew chief by trade.

The permanent trophy resides in a display case, along with the 55<sup>th</sup> ceremonial bell, in the lobby of the **General Russell Dougherty** Conference Center at Offutt. Many significant events are held there each year, including the annual ACC Commanders and Chiefs Conferences, so it is highly visible.



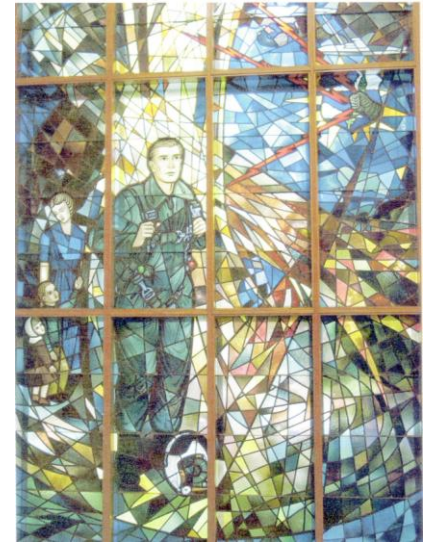
## SAC MEMORIAL SERVICE RENEWED

The 55<sup>th</sup> Wing at Offutt AFB, NE, revived a tradition that had lapsed in recent years, a memorial

service at the SAC Chapel to honor all those who had perished in the line of duty while serving in most professional, finest, mightiest, command the Air Force ever had, Strategic Air Command.

The SAC Memorial Sunday began in November of 1958, initiated by CINCSAC **General Thomas S. Power**, and generally took place on a Sunday near the anniversary date of the founding of SAC.

After a gap of eight years the service/ceremony was held 16 March 2008 with 55<sup>th</sup> Wing



Chaplain Colonel **Jeff Swanson** officiating.

Chaplain Captain **John Dobbs**, the project officer, did an outstanding job researching and organizing the event attended by about 80 SAC veterans and family members, many of whom are **Association** members.

Guest speakers were: Col (Ret) **Dick Purdum**, the former sixth CMSgtAF (Ret) **James McCoy**, VAdm (Ret) **Robert Bell**, and LtGen (Ret) **Robert Hinson**.

A slide presentation of the glory days of SAC was shown, and TAPS was sounded, in addition to other traditional chapel service offerings.



## TAPS



**ALBA, Michael**; 90, died 21 December 2007, Colorado Springs, CO; wife: **Ivy**. Michael was WWII veteran, a pilot who flew combat missions in

P-38 and P-51 aircraft with the **55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group**. He later served as president of the **Group's** association.

**CLARK, Charles J.**; 85, 12 April 2008, Searsport, ME; wife of 61 years: **Carolyn**. A pilot with the **55<sup>th</sup>** from 1965-1970, Charles flew the first RC-135C from the factory at Baltimore to Offutt after the Wing had moved from Forbes AFB, KS.

**EVERSOLE, JACK C.**; 79, 24 March 2008, Tucson, AZ; wife, **Johanna**. A 26 year AF veteran, he was an aircraft commander in B-47s and RC-135s with the **55<sup>th</sup>**. He also served as Chief of Reconnaissance at 8<sup>th</sup> AF before retiring in 1970.

**JOHNSON, John T.**; 75, 8 April 2008, Burke, VA; wife: **Delores (Dee)**. John was a long time **55<sup>th</sup>**er as an EWO in RB-47s at Forbes AFB, KS. He and Dee were regular reunion attendees.

**JOHNSON, William M, Jr.**; 77, 1 March 2008, Satellite Beach, FL; wife of 51 years, **Jeanne**. Bill was an RC-135 pilot with the 82<sup>nd</sup> SRS at Kadena AFB, Okinawa, and the **55<sup>th</sup>** at Offutt AFB, NE, from where he retired in 1975.

**KREH, Eldon**; 8 February 2008, Aurora, CO.  
(Only information received by ed.)

**KROSNOFF, Gregory**; 27 July 2007, St George, UT; wife: **Nancy**. An RC-135 navigator in the original cast of the 82<sup>nd</sup> SRS at Yokota AB, Japan, and Kadena AB, Okinawa, 1967-69. He later served a SE Asia tour in RF-4s, and was a navigator training instructor at Mather AFB, CA.

**LEDFORD, Jack C.**; 87, 16 November 2007, Tucson, AZ; wife: **Polly**. A B-29 pilot in the Pacific theater in WWII, Jack later directed U-2 flights over Cuba in 1962, and worked in the advance program for the SR-71.

**MCKECHNIE, John**; 84, 20 January 2008, Alexandria, VA; wife: **Mary**. Dating from the early 1950s, John was a crew member on RB-50s and RB-47s with the **55<sup>th</sup>** at Forbes. He later became a missileer before retiring.

**MARTINSEN, Arnold N.**; 86, 31 December 2007, Little Rock, AR; wife: **Leona**. Arnold was WWII radio operator and an aircraft observer 1942-44, who served in the SW Pacific. Recalled for the Korean conflict, he eventually was in 2<sup>nd</sup> AF and at SAC HQ in the Ops Directorate as an EWO specialist, retiring in 1969.

**MONCURE, ALICE**; 84, 2 May 2008, Saddlebrooke, AZ. She was the wife of **Tom** for over 60 years. He was a longtime EWO from the 1960s in RB-47s at Forbes and in RCs at Offutt, totaling over 20 years in the **55<sup>th</sup>**.

**RUSSELL, Rufus, J., Jr.**; 83, 3 May 2006, Prattville, AL; wife of 56 years: **Myra**. Rufus was a long time member of the **55<sup>th</sup>** in RB-47s at Forbes in the 1960s. After retiring from the AF he worked with the State of Alabama Dept of Pensions and Securities for 20 years.

**SATO, Joseph M.**; 88, 28 September 2007; Prattville, AL. An Army Air Corps bomb/nav in WWII entering in 1941. Joe later served with the **55<sup>th</sup>** in RB-50s at Barksdale AFB, LA, Ramey AFB, PR, and Forbes. He retired in 1970 and became a lawyer practicing for 30 years.

**SHEPHERD, Joan L.**; 77, 30 May 2008, Capon Ridge, WV; wife of Thomas, a former **55<sup>th</sup>** navigator at Forbes and Offutt. He also served in the SAC Recon Center and moved to the Pentagon.

**SIMMON, Robert E.**; 86, 21 April 2008, Cabot, AR. Bob was a veteran of WWII having flown 30 combat missions in B-17s. He later was an RB-47 navigator in the early cadre of **55<sup>th</sup>**ers at Forbes in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

**TAYLOR, Betty O.**; 84, 29 September 2007, Walnut Creek, CA. She was the widow of **Merrill**.

**WAGNER, JOHN A.**; 85, 19 May 2008, Bellevue, NE; wife of 65 years **Pauline (Polly)**. John was a veteran of WWII (B-17 nav), Korea, Viet Nam and the Cold War. He was an RB-50 navigator with the **55<sup>th</sup>** in the 1950s. He worked in real estate for many years after retiring from the AF.

**WARD, Walter E.**; 88, 26 May 2008, Austin, TX; wife of 55 years, **Kay**. Walt was a WWII B-17 pilot who was shot down and was a POW. His 28 year career included time in the **55th** as an AC in RB-50 and RB-47s. He retired in November 1964.

**ZIMMERMAN, Frederick G.**; 87, 21 February 2007, Corning, CA; wife: **Dotty**.

\* \* \* \* \*

**TAPS** notification of **Association** members, spouses, friends and associates taking the Big PCS should be sent to Jim Thomas and Max Moore (*see DIRECTORY, page 3 for contact info*).

**Please include next of kin and an address and to whom the Association condolence card may be sent; date of demise, age, location, crew**

position/aircraft, and/or duty specialty, organization and bases and approximate years with 55<sup>th</sup>; and any other pertinent information you wish to relate.

*The news in TAPS is limited by how much and how accurate the given information.*

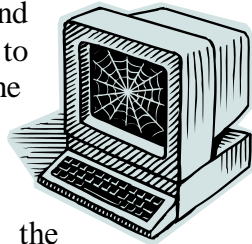
\* \* \* \* \*

**YOUR 55<sup>TH</sup> SRW ASSN  
WEB SITE**  
[www.55srwa.org](http://www.55srwa.org)

\* \* \* \* \*

The web site continues to evolve in the capable hands of webmeister **Jim Maloney**. The home page is an integral and vital part of the **Association**'s line of communications and information. You are urged to check it out and view the makeover Jim has made.

Everything you want to know about the **Association** is there: "Corp HQ" includes the constitution, bylaws, memos for record, officers and bios; and **membership form**. The "Mail Room" has e-mail traffic of interest for members.



Timely info on upcoming reunions, on the Birthday Ball, and other events are covered; plus important bulletins on any projects in progress. "Clothing Sales", "Memory Lane", and links to other associated and interesting sites are included.

**There is also an archive of many past newsletters for review and research.** As examples: the October 2005 issue has an article on the history of the **Association**; the April 2003 and February 2004 issues have all one would want to know about the **55<sup>th</sup> SRWA's** Cold War Memorial; and the January 2001 issue has an item on the Wing Hall of Fame evolution.

**Jim is always looking for new and fresh ideas. Inputs from members are encouraged and welcome.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEMORY LANE FEATURE**

The **Association** web page *Memory Lane* feature continues to grow, with factual, non-fiction stories on **55SRW** or **55th Wing**, individuals, crews

or events. Browse it and you will be pleased at what you view.

You are invited, encouraged, urged, and welcomed to submit your inputs. If you need some help in getting started, feel free to contact Sam Pizzo at 985-845-7445, or e-mail him at [sampizzo@webtv.net](mailto:sampizzo@webtv.net).

**This is your chance to let the Association membership learn of your experiences, 'war stories', and 'there I was' tales. Take advantage of this opportunity to share and preserve history.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**LETTERS AND STUFF**



Sir:

Just like **Hal Hackenberger** (*see Letters and Stuff, Feb 08 issue of VO*), I like the newsletters, but also don't recognize most of the names.

I served at Forbes from 1956-62, and was on "**Killer**" **Kane's** crew, **Jack Schweitzer** was copilot. Short stay on **Will Palm's** crew, and then to "**Stub**" **Warden's** crew (**Lou Eisenberg, CP; Cliff Neuman**, nav; "**Sonny**" **Gargano**, Raven 1, and me as Raven 2).

I know it's a lot of work, but would like to see names of people who have signed up to go to the various events.

Respectfully,

**Jim Hunter**, McLean, VA, and Vero Beach, FL  
(From an e-mail, 24 February 2008)

*(Just as was done with Hal, Jim was informed that attendee lists are routinely published **after** each reunion. He was directed to the Association web site archives of past newsletters and dates of post-reunion issues. Also noted was that it is difficult to publish those names ahead of reunions since we generally do not have the necessary lead time beforehand.*

*An old journalism credo states that 'names are news'. So, as often as is possible, the names of those who attend 55<sup>th</sup> related functions are published. See same for the DC reunion later in this issue. Max)*

\* \* \* \* \*



*From an essay February 2008:*

I graduated from the Air Force Electronic Counter Measures school at Keesler AFB, MS, in 1951, and was subsequently assigned as an electronic warfare officer crewmember to the 343<sup>rd</sup> Strat Recon Sqd of the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW**.

The RB-47s were engaged in patrolling Soviet bloc borders to detect, monitor, and locate hostile radar systems. Over the years, this electronic intelligence gathering, or ELINT activity, along with ECM, became to be recognized as part of a much broader scope of military electronic operations – electronic warfare (EW).

The aircrew practitioners of EW were then, and are still, designated as ‘ravens’. Those military and civilians personnel involved in support of EW may be thought of as first cousins to the ravens or crows assigned to aircrews.

As for me, over the years, I’ve been transformed from a bold, young raven, to a wise and seasoned crow, and finally to a retired old bird.

**Phil Mitchell**, Pleasanton, CA.

\* \* \* \* \*

To all:

I want everyone to know that I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the 2008 **Tales of The 55th** program sponsored by the **55th SRWA** (Plus two other organizations. See **Tales recap article earlier in this issue**).

Thank you Jim Thomas (President, **55thSRWA**). You did a great job as chairman and Master of Ceremonies. It was a very enjoyable experience for me, my wife, and two of my children (**Kingdon** and **Karen**) who were born in Alaska when I was assigned to the 6th SW.

I also enjoyed getting together with folks such as Reggie Urschler, Steve Stevens and Bill Ernst. Being in their company brought back many memories of my tour with the 6th SW and 24th SRS at Eielson AFB.

That was more than 40 years ago when we were young captains and majors flying reconnaissance missions out of Shemya, Eielson, Upper Heyford, Hickam and Johnston Island. It was a special time and place in our lives and we will never forget it.

I also enjoyed sharing stories with young warriors and older veterans whom I never met before that evening.

The photo below speaks for itself. Sincerely, **King Hawes**, Bellevue, NE  
(From an e-mail, 6 May 2008)



L to R: Tull, Jim Taylor, Belford (in back) LaWanda Hicks, Hawes.

\* \* \* \* \*

Just wanted to say what a great reunion (was held) here in DC. Kudos to Ricky McMahon and his crew. **Bob and Sandy Seh**

(From an e-mail to the **Association** web site, 19 May 2008)

\* \* \* \* \*

## JOHN KING BLVD DEDICATED

The Rockwall, TX, City Council voted last October to name a 7.6 mile bypass in honor of **John King**, a former council member who died of cancer in December 2006. John’s AF career included serving as the 38<sup>th</sup> SRS commander at Offutt, and a stint with the 6<sup>th</sup> SW at Eielson AFB, AK.

On 12 May this year, the formal dedication of part of Texas state highway 276 took place. John’s widow **Marilyn**, his brother and son all attended the ribbon cutting. The mayor of Rockwall, **Bill Cecil** (right) officiated.



Also attending were **Association** members **Fox** and **Teresa Censullo**, **Mike** and **Pearl McFarland**, **Rich Holsinger**, and **LtCol Kent Dusek**, 6545 AESS Commander, all from Greenville, TX.

Data and photo from **Fox Censullo**.

\* \* \* \* \*

## KIM SINISCALCHI PROMOTED

Colonel Kim Siniscalchi, spouse of Joe, a former 55<sup>th</sup>er and current Association member, has been selected for promotion to major general. Yep, a jump of two ranks, as she was confirmed on 5 June to be the Chief of the AF Nurse Corps and Assistant Surgeon General for Medical Development, HQ USAF, Bolling AFB, DC.

Wowie, zowie and hearty congratulations to Kim. Talk about onward and upward with USAF.

\* \* \* \* \*



Promotional materials (brochures, calendars) from the National Museum of the USAF prominently feature a venerable RB-47 Cold War flyer, tail number 299, from the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW at Forbes AFB, KS, circa 1960s. *Info courtesy of Jack Kovacs.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## BOOK PLUGS

\* \* \* \* \*

I have recently completed a paperback book covering my exploits during 30 years of service with Uncle Sam.

It covers assignments during WWII, Air Guard duties, B-29 days, my sojourn with the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW, the Area 51/CIA-12 activities, running the SR-71 program at the SAC Recon Center, and my final



assignment at USAFE, where I ran the intel collections programs.

If you would like a copy, they are available at cost.

Please mail check for \$10.00 to: Sam Pizzo, 218 Nottoway Dr, Mandeville, LA 70471-1516, or phone: 985-845-7445; e-mail: sampizzo@webtv.net

Please be sure and provide your mailing address and phone number or e-mail address where I can contact you.

I think you will enjoy reading the book, which for some, will bring back some precious memories.

Thank you. Sam

\* \* \* \* \*

## One Minute to Midnight: Kennedy Khrushchev, Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War By Michael Dobbs, published by Knopf, 2008.

Yes, there is more to be told about the Cuban Missile Crisis; and there is a new audience, a generation who came of age after this singular event of the Cold War. Author Dobbs does this daunting task with new research and a compelling narrative.

Dobbs organizes his book by chapters covering each of the critical days from October 16, 1962, when President Kennedy received word on the emplacement of Soviet missiles in Cuba, through October 28, 1962, when an understanding had been reached on the removal of those missiles.

He interviewed Soviet and American veterans, although the Castro regime is still not forthcoming with its archives. He has a chapter on the "Hunt for the Grozny", a Soviet vessel which was approaching the quarantine line. He details the loss of Bill Britton and crew on takeoff at Bermuda, and the success of Joe Carney's crew in locating the Grozny.

The author mentions other 55<sup>th</sup>ers, such as John E. Johnson and Gene Murphy, and the critical ELINT sorties flown by Don Griffin and Stan Wilson. He explains about the Spoonrest and Fruitset radars, even "Big Cigar" messages; and he describes the tradecraft of the RB-47 'crows'.

Dobbs goes on to explain the meaning of the 55<sup>th</sup> motto "Videmus Omnia." This is not to suggest that the author makes the 55<sup>th</sup> effort the major part of his narrative, but rather that he gives the Wing its due.



He gives the most detail yet on **Chuck Maultsby's** U-2 sortie out of Eielson AFB, AK, on an air sampling mission, which was lost over the Arctic and drifted over Siberia, due to the navigational problems caused by the Aurora Borealis. All of this at the most critical time in the crisis.

Dobbs' writing style makes this book a treat. It is full of new insight and should be of especial interest to **55th** veterans. *Contributed by Robb Hoover*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Editor's plea: If any members wish to contribute letters, stories, photos and articles, please send them to me. If events occur in your area that you think would be of interest to **the general readership**, mail or e-mail the pertinent details, and include the names of those **Association** members who attend. **Names are news.** The only way to broaden our coverage is to get input from the near and far reaches of **Fifty-Fifth-land**.*

Thanks, and **Videmus Omnia**, Max  
(Contributions may be edited for content, readability, and spacing.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## ASSOCIATION COINS



Front

Back

*Coin shown as actual size*

Depicted above is a picture of the official **Association** coin (1.75" diameter) that was a gift presented to all who registered for the September 2006 reunion in Omaha.

It is available for purchase. Make checks payable to the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association**. Send check and mailing instructions to Jim Thomas' home address: 4418 Anchor Mill Dr, Bellevue, NE, 68123. **Coins are \$5 each, plus postage for 1-3 coins...\$1; 4-6 coins...\$2; 7-9 coins...\$3. For 10**

**or more coins, please contact Jim for cost and availability.**

You can view a color rendition of the coin on the **Association** website: [www.55srwa.org/sales](http://www.55srwa.org/sales).

\* \* \* \* \*

## MEMORIAL BRICK ORDERS

### FINAL NOTICE, REALLY

Dear Fellow Members,

**There has been just one brick order since last fall.** Not enough to stir the dirt. It takes a minimum of 15 to get more added to the Memorial.

However, there may still be some **55th** veterans and/or family members who want to order bricks for the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW** Cold War Memorial patio in the National Museum of the USAF Museum Memorial Gardens, near Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, which was dedicated in September 2003. Over 600 bricks have been engraved-to-order thus far.

**So we will give it one last shot. If you wish to buy a brick, or know of anyone who wants one, now is the time to get an order done.**

The cost is **\$65 for each brick**, and the engraving is **limited** to three lines, 13 characters per line including spaces, dashes and slashes (**No periods, commas, colons or semicolons or quotation marks.**

Make your checks to **55SRW Association**, tell us exactly how you want your brick(s) to read, and mail to Bill Ernst, 410 Greenbriar Court, Bellevue, NE, 68005, or e-mail: [BillErnst1@cox.net](mailto:BillErnst1@cox.net)

Last call, y'all.

**Videmus Omnia, Bill**

\* \* \* \* \*

## ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

**These are 'must have' items for the reunions.**

They also look good on the golf course, for casual Fridays at the office, and any leisure time.

Give a big hint to the family and mayhap some generous loved one will give you one for whatever you have going: Fathers Day, birthday, anniversary, Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Kwanzaa.

**Be sure to state the size you want: S, M, L, XL, XXL.** We can order 3XL if the need arises; and



yes, we have sold that size in the past. *Whoa, Big Fella! Whoa!* **Cost is \$25 per shirt.**

The dual shield logo is on the left front, white with red collar and sleeve trim, navy blue front placket, no pocket. They are 100% combed cotton. The quality is such that there is little to no fading or shrinkage.

Other versions (colors, material, with pocket) may soon be available. Stay tuned for details.



The golf/ballcaps are royal blue with the dual shield logo on the front, and an adjustable back strap. **They go for \$7 each.**

The items can be viewed in color on the **Association** web site at [www.55srwa.org](http://www.55srwa.org), and click on the *Clothing Sales* link.

**There are charges for priority postage to be added** to the individual item costs: \$5 for a shirt **only**; \$7 for **two** shirts; \$6 **if both a shirt and cap** are ordered; \$4 for a cap **only**.

One more way to identify with your **Association** and “show the logo” at appropriate official and social functions.

**Great gifts!** The shirts and caps are unisex, so get one for your spouse, significant other, or other family members. The family pet, even. Who cares, as long as we sell ‘em.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE ASSOCIATION TIE

The ‘regimental’ tie is a distinguished blue and red striped design with the **Association’s** dual shield logo prominently displayed in the tie’s center. A fine gold line defines every fourth blue/red stripe. It can also be seen in color on the web site.

**The price is \$25 per tie, including shipping and postage.**

**Order now! This item is another must have for reunion banquets and other appropriate events. This may be our last batch.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Anyone desiring to purchase shirts, caps or ties can send an e-mail: **Larry Utley** at [LarryU1001@aol.com](mailto:LarryU1001@aol.com); phone 402-592-6627; or write 1001 Michelle Parkway, Papillion, NE 68046.

**Checks for the full amount of your order should be made to the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association, or to Larry Utley. Either way, the bucks end up in the Association treasury.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## 55<sup>TH</sup> FASHION PINS

As a direct result of newsletter notices, the pins continue to be sold to **55SRWA** members all over the country. They are particularly evident at official and social functions at Offutt and **55<sup>th</sup>** reunions.

You will want to acquire one for that special lady in your life to wear on any occasion. Gents, it makes a great birthday, anniversary accessory gift, or holiday stocking stuffer.

*(If the ol’ dude doesn’t take the hint, ladies, order one for yourself.)* Classy, but inexpensive.



*(Shown as actual size)*

The **Association** does **not** sell these pins and receives **no** money. But, as a service for those who wish to possess same: **Erwin’s Jewelers, Frank Kumor**, proprietor, offers them and **you can purchase directly from the store.**

Send order requests to 223 W. Mission Ave, Bellevue, NE; or call: (402) 291-2454, or fax to (402) 293-5873 to order the pins. **Costs are \$9 for the pin and \$3 for shipping.**

\* \* \* \* \*

# REUNIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

## STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND REUNION/MEMORIAL

**30 APR - 4 MAY 2008  
FAIRBORN, OHIO**

Veterans of Strategic Air Command gathered at the Fairborn Holiday Inn Convention Center to commemorate the glory days of the mightiest military entity in history. Although not attended in great numbers, those who were there had the opportunity to reminisce and swap stories of the hey-day of SAC.



They enjoyed tours, hospitality room, dinners and a banquet at the National Museum of the Air Force. But the highlight of the event was the dedication on Friday, 2 May, of a monument commissioned by a cadre of SAC veterans and former component units to all who served in SAC and won the Cold War.

**J.T. Romero** was the reunion chair, while **Ron Resh** was the monument initiator and coordinator.

Resh also emceed the dedication ceremony. Representatives from SAC aircrews, missileers, maintainers,

support personnel and families made up the unveiling 'honor guard'.

The 55<sup>th</sup>'s own **Jack Kovacs** made the formal presentation of the monument to the museum



curator during the ceremony.

Other 55<sup>th</sup>'ers in attendance were **Larry Mitchell, Bill Simon, Errol Hoberman** and **Ed Wakeman**.

There was a discussion at the business meeting about resurrecting a SAC veterans association with an aim of supporting and/or coordinating with currently established former SAC unit associations, to cosponsor reunions for example. The attendees were well aware of the **55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association** and how well organized and governed it is, and 'they' may seek to emulate some of what we do and how to set up the new SAC association.

*Info and photo contributed by Jack Kovacs.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## 55th FIGHTER GROUP

**22-24 MAY 2008- OMAHA/OFFUTT**

Fourteen of the "Greatest Generation" who served with the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* Fighter Group in WWII, plus several family members and friends, enjoyed a gathering at the Doubletree Hotel in Omaha.



**Don Gifford**, VP of the Group's association, was honcho for the reunion.

Tours of Omaha and Offutt AFB, including lunch and an aircraft walk-through were featured. There was also a re-dedication briefing for the plaque recognizing the Fighter Group that was originally placed in front of 55<sup>th</sup> Wing HQ at a reunion in 1987.

The festivities wound up with a banquet on Saturday, 24 May.



*Veterans of the "Greatest Generation"*

\* \* \* \* \*

## BIG SAFARI ASSOCIATION 10-13 SEPT 2008 – DENVER

The Embassy Suites in the Denver Tech Center is the nerve center for this convention. A special rate of \$140 plus tax is good from 8-14 September. Using the **code BSR**, call 1-800-362-2779 for suite reservations.



**John Reynolds** is the reunion coordinator. His contact info is: PO Box 6056 CBN 019, Greenville, TX 75403-6056; Ph: 1-903-457-4990.

There is a full agenda to include the obligatory golf outing, tours, dinner out, hospitality room, seminar and business meetings, plus the gala banquet. All the details and a registration form can be found at: [www.bigsafariassociation.org](http://www.bigsafariassociation.org), or by contacting Reynolds.

\* \* \* \* \*

## B-47 STRATOJET ASSOCIATION

25-27 SEPT 2008 – MARIETTA, GA

Anyone who was ever associated with flying, maintaining, supporting and/or is interested in the B-47 is cordially invited to attend this reunion.

It will be held at the Marietta Conference Center and Resort. There will be a plethora of tours, dinners, and a full Saturday program with the membership business meeting, a symposium, and the grand banquet. The featured speaker will be the **55<sup>th</sup>'s** own Col (Ret) **John R. McKone**.



Point man for contact is **Bob Bowman**. He can be reached at 770-826-5562; or e-mail: [bbowman@northhighland.com](mailto:bbowman@northhighland.com). There is also a web site: **B-47.com** where details can be obtained as they develop and are posted.

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## WHO SHOT WHAT



Graphics and official logos from various sources. Photo credits to: DC reunion from Jim Thomas, Maloney, Moore; Ball logo courtesy of **SSgt Timothy Sass**, 55<sup>th</sup> Contracting Sqd. First Ball cake cutting from 55<sup>th</sup> Historian; 2008 Ball and Hall of Fame, Moore; SAC Memorial window from 55<sup>th</sup> Chaplain's office. **Association** coin, Mike Cook; cap/shirt, **Association** trophy, Fighter Group, *Tales* montage, Moore; **Assn** tie, book cover Pizzo.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Free advice: If you find something you really like, buy a lifetime supply, because they will stop making it.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Sometimes wisdom comes with age.  
But age often comes alone.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Do not take life too seriously.  
No one gets out alive anyway.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Try the Slim Fast diet.  
It goes great with Snickers,  
Krispy Kremes and Oreos.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*For every action, there is an equal and opposite  
government program.*

\* \* \* \* \*



# 55<sup>TH</sup> ASSOCIATION DC REUNION ATTENDEES

## THEY WERE THERE AND YOU WEREN'T



Agronis, Gil and Ellen  
Allen, Craig and Amanda  
Alvarez, Bert and Rosalina  
Anderson, Tom  
Arvin, Buck and Linda  
Atwood, Marcy  
Back, George, Gerrie,  
and daughter Susie  
Barker, Jack and Nona  
Barrett, Burt  
Blount, Harris and  
Norma Kussman  
Boothby, George and Diana  
Boydston, Ted and Marlene  
Brookie, Jim and Marilyn  
Brunner, Al\*  
Bryan, Ken and Gretchen  
Burmeister, Charles and Carol  
Caldwell, Jim and Nancy  
Campbell, Dick and Eve  
Carbaugh, Phil  
Carpenter, Buzz and Nancy  
Castleton, Jean, daughter Sue  
and son James  
Castillo, Gil  
Clark, John and Betty  
Cobleigh, Ken and Sue  
Cohen, Jeff and Patty  
Cole, Pappy and Anka  
Connaughton, Dave  
Cook, Michael  
Covington, Ron and Kathryn  
Craft, Roby  
Curzon, Dan and Linda  
  
Dennis, Bill and Denise  
D'Ovilliers, Larry  
Dube, Buck and Mitzi  
Duer, Glen and Ann  
Dugie, Val\* and Laura  
Durkee, Darren and Karin  
Elder, 'Box' and Laurie  
Ernst, Bill and Linda  
Erteschik, Dave  
Everett, Bill and Eileen

Fair, Roy and Libby  
Fake, Jim and Kyung  
Feldkamp, Alan and Sandy  
Frazier, Ann

Gardner, Joan and daughters, Rachel  
Dirmeyer, Liz\* Borelli  
granddaughter, Brooke Borelli



*Joan Gardner and family + one*

Glass, Fred  
Griffin, Don and Marsha  
Gurney, Don and Barbara, and  
brother and sister-in-law

Hampton, Dave and Carole  
Hampton, Will\* and Jenny\*  
Hanaman, Suzan and Joseph  
Hinkle, Clark and Valerie  
Hoberman, Errol and Sue  
Jeffers, Fred and Heidi  
Johnson, John and Toni  
Kennedy, Ham and Pat  
Kirkwood, Sheila and Brian\*  
Knecht, Ron and Donna  
Lemon, Dave  
Lewis, Bill and Carol  
Liller, Charles and Sara  
Longo, Dean  
Lutkenhouse, Joel and Irene  
Lynch, Steve and Rose Betz  
Maloney, Jim and Peg



*Bo and Ann Marlin, Will and Jenny Hampton  
Bo and Will are former active duty members  
of the **Association** Board of Directors*

- Marlin, Bo and Ann**
- Martin, Dan and Mary Burg**
- McCall, 'Cash' and Betty**
- McFarland, Mike and Pearl**
- McKechnie, Bill\***
- McMahon, Ricky, Cary and daughter  
Caitlin Keyser**
- Meermans, Mike**
- Meyer, John and Jeanie**
- Miller, George**
- Mitchell, Larry and Susan**
- Moore, Max and Carol**
- Navarro, Sylvia and sister Vi Rafferty**
- Olds, Don\* and Tami**
  
- Palmeri, Elvio and Darlene**
- Penfield, George and son Rob**
- Phillips, Terry**
- Pocock, Christopher**
- Potter, 'Pete' and Treva**
  
- Rankin, Rick**
- Rasmussen, Connie and Frank**
- Rasmussen, 'Chip' and Sharon**
- Reed, Tom and Celia**
- Remaklus, Don**
- Ross, George and Betty**
- Rust, Erma and Dian, Sean, Rachel  
and Mellisa Kress, and  
Medora Safai, Bonnie Sartain,  
and Heather Lundy**
  
- Sachs, Doug\***
- Saenz, Roland, Kathy and Gerald**
- Schapker, Fred**
- Schulz, Don and Lucienne**

- Seh, Bob and Sandy**
- Shanley, Joe and Joanne**
- Shepherd, Tom**
- Sidelko, 'Sid' and Phyllis**
- Sievers, Stan and Shirley**
- Sjolund, Dave and Carol**
- Smart, 'Rudy' and Terry**
- Simon, Bill and Susanne Howe**
- Siniscalchi, Joe**
- Smith, Al and Marty**
- Smith, Gary and Patty**
- Smith, Phil\***
- Stoop, Ken and Myrtle**
- Strandberg, Bill and Ann**

- Taylor, Jim and Marion**
- Thomas, Don and Barbara N. and  
grandson Greg**
- Sister-in-law Barbara Thomas, and  
Judy Kirsten**
- Thomas, Jim**
- Topps, Ed\* and Monica**
- Turner, Jeff and Tracy**

- Vinckier, Mick and Emily**
- Waple, Hugh and Etta**
- Waters, Charles**
- Wenell, Pete and Laurie**
- White, Ben and Betty**
- Whitworth, Neil and Doloras**
- Wood, Norm and 'B'**

*\*Indicates active duty*



*Nice ties, guys*



## DC REUNION ALBUM



*Marlins check-in Charlie Waters.*



*Marty and Al Smith, Rudy Smart, Jim Taylor.*



*Where be the bus? Potters, Alvarez', Gretchen Bryan, Agronis'.*



*Board of Directors meeting. Heavy stuff here.  
L to R: Griffin, Waters, Hoberman, Ross, Ernst, Moore, Thomas, Cook  
Ricky Mac with back to camera. Maloney taking the photo.*





*Cruising on the Potomac :  
Brookies, Vinckiers, Stoops, Meyers, et al.*



*Susan Mitchell, Nancy Carpenter, Ernst  
Buzz Carpenter, B. Wood.*



*The Classics: Dick Campbell, Buck and Mitzi Dube, Pete Potter, Burt Barrett, Charlie Waters.*



*L to R: Jim Thomas, Norm Wood, Col Phil Smith, B Wood, George Miller,  
Susan and Larry Mitchell, Mike Cook, Linda and Bill Ernst.*



*Reverend Glass does his thing.*



*Hinkles, Sievers, Maloneys, Remaklus, Rassmussen, Cohen.*



*Security lineup of shady characters at the Pentagon.*



*America's Most Wanted - Up Against the Wall!!!!*



*A much better looking group, what?  
L to R: Valerie Hinkle, Peg Maloney, Phyllis Sidelko,  
Pearl McFarland, Shirley Sievers, Cary McMahan.*





*Members are intent at the Saturday a.m. meeting. Yes, indeedy.*



*Mike Cook, Jack Daniels and Gary Smith.*



*Max Moore, Gary Smith, Cash McCall.*



*Reunion Headquarters Crystal City.*



*Brian Kirkwood, Feldkamps, Sheila Kirkwood.*



*Barbara and Don Thomas, Carol Moore.*





*Get on the bus, get off the bus.*



*Hobermans, Sylvia Navarro, Vi Rafferty*



*Tour group at Udvar-Hazy Air Museum, Buzz Carpenter presiding.*



*Remaklus, Rose Betz, Steve Lynch, Jeff and Patty Cohen cruising.*



*Hoberman, Griffin, Glass, Fake*



*Meyer, Brookie, Lewis*

# TALES OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> 2008 MONTAGE



*Opening ceremonial bell,  
Thomas, Hoover, Tull, BGen Jones.*



*55<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander BGen Jones  
makes his opening remarks.*



*Emcee Jim Thomas in WWII gear.*



*Reggie doing his impression of General Patton.*



*Part of the appreciative packed audience.*





*Col Jim Harvey, 25<sup>th</sup> RS/CC.*



*A crewdog and her pup.  
Capt Marika Schreck, pilot.*



*Standing crewdogs only.*



*L to R: BGen Jones, King Hawes, Tony Belford, Col Harvey, Reggie, LtCol Chris Cohoes  
toasting the 55<sup>th</sup> troops deployed around the world.*





# VIDEMUS OMNIA

55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association, Inc.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a former member of the **55th Strat Recon Wing**? \_\_\_\_\_



Are you a current/former member of the **55th Wing**? \_\_\_\_\_



When were you a member of the **55th SRW** or **55th Wing**? \_\_\_\_\_

Which **55th** Unit(s) were you a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you on active duty? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, with what unit? \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

What is your present occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a widow/widower? \_\_\_\_\_

*(Spouses of deceased members receive free lifetime membership.)*

Return this form with dues, as applicable

**(\$10 until 31 December 2008)\***

**Effective: 1 January 2009 – (\$20 per year or \$55 for 3 years)\***

to:

**55<sup>TH</sup> STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE WING ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. BOX 13165**

**OFFUTT AFB, NE 68113**

**\*Note - Dues expiration date – 31 December of any given year**

